

## PROFFER OF EVIDENCE OF GREAT PLAINS COMMUNICATIONS

Rodney L. Thiemann, if called to testify would state as follows:

My name is Rodney L. Thiemann, I am Director-Regulatory Finances for Great Plains Communications, Blair, Nebraska. I have held this position since October 2001. Prior to that time I was Manager-Rates, Tariffs and Pricing. I have a degree in Accounting.

Great Plains Communications provides local exchange service and other telecommunications services to approximately 32,800 access lines in 71 exchanges in rural areas of Nebraska. Great Plains is a rural telephone company as that term is defined in the Communications Act. The largest town served has a population of approximately 2,000. Great Plains' operating environment, both financial and geographic, is substantially different from that of the Regional Bell Operating Companies. For example, Qwest, the RBOC that provides service in other areas of Nebraska, serves 24 million access lines in 14 states, including most of the capitals and major cities in those states.

Access revenues constitute 37% of the annual total gross revenues of Great Plains. For the first six months of 2002, Great Plains billed \$5,967,160.13 in access charges, of which WorldCom was billed \$2,140,793.80. Billing to WorldCom accounted for 35.88% of total access revenues and 13.28% of total operating revenue for that period.

In the event of a post-petition default by WorldCom, Great Plains anticipates that it will incur at least four months of uncollected charges. This consists of nearly one month's charges for pre-petition services and three months of post-petition charges. Under existing regulations and Great Plains' tariffs, it would take over two months from the date of an unpaid bill and over three months from the first date of service to discontinue service to WorldCom upon default. If Great Plains is unable to collect even just four months of WorldCom's charges, Great Plains' total annual operating revenue will decrease by approximately 4.4 % and earnings will decrease by 21.8%.

For the sixth months ending June 2002, WorldCom paid its access bill within the thirty day period allowed only once. The other five months it either paid late or not at all.